

- Increased potential for fugitive dust, proportional to the area of disturbed ground surface;
- Potential for invasive species being established in disturbed areas before indigenous vegetation can be reestablished;
- Potential for bird strikes, generally proportional to the number of turbines installed;
- Increased time required for construction, with proportional increases in both the magnitude and duration of impacts related to construction;
- Potentially additive impacts from individual turbines, including noise and viewshed impacts; and
- Proportional increases in O&M costs, including costs to deal with wastes associated with system maintenance and repair.

## D.6 COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY PROFILES

This section provides an overview of the existing commercial wind energy industry within the study area. The AWEA compiles and maintains data on commercial wind farms.<sup>21</sup> The review and analysis of these data provide a reasonable basis from which to anticipate the characteristics of future wind farms.

Industrywide reviews of the commercial utility-scale wind energy industry have identified the following important trends, each of which will greatly influence future wind farms.

- In general, average individual wind turbine power-generating capacities have steadily increased in North America, from 500–750 kW in the late 1990s to megawatt-capacity turbine installations beginning in 1999, resulting in typical wind farm generating capacities of 50 MW or larger (Kaygusuz 2004).
- The (worldwide) average growth rate of the cumulative installed wind energy power-generating capacity over the period 1998 to 2004 has been about 30% per year (Kaygusuz 2004).
- As the understanding of aerodynamics has been increasing and as designs have been defined, wind turbine efficiencies have been increasing, especially for turbines with larger rotor-swept areas. Average annual yields per unit of rotor-swept area (RSA) have increased by more than 50% as rotor diameters have increased from 66 to 262 ft (20 to 80 m) (Milborrow 2002).

---

<sup>21</sup> The text box on the next page describes the AWEA and information compiled by the AWEA regarding the wind energy industry.

- Wind turbines now have power-generating capacities of as much as 600 W/m<sup>2</sup> of RSA.
- Three-bladed, upwind turbines dominate the commercial utility-scale market (Milborrow 2002).
- The majority of wind turbines run at fixed rotor speeds and utilize induction generators. However, newer models equipped with sophisticated electric power conditioning controls have rotors that run at a variable rotational speed (Milborrow 2002).
- Newer-model turbines tend to run at slower rotor rotational speeds but have relatively high energy capture/conversion efficiencies (Milborrow 2002).

Although the commercial wind energy market in the United States has existed for some time, it has only recently (since 1999) begun to experience substantial growth, with calendar years 2001 and 2003 witnessing the two largest single-year's growth. Figure D-6 graphically depicts the rise in wind energy capacity (nameplate ratings in megawatts of electricity; the bars in the foreground represent capacities added annually; the bars in the background represent cumulative power capacity) over the period from 1981 through 2003. Data published

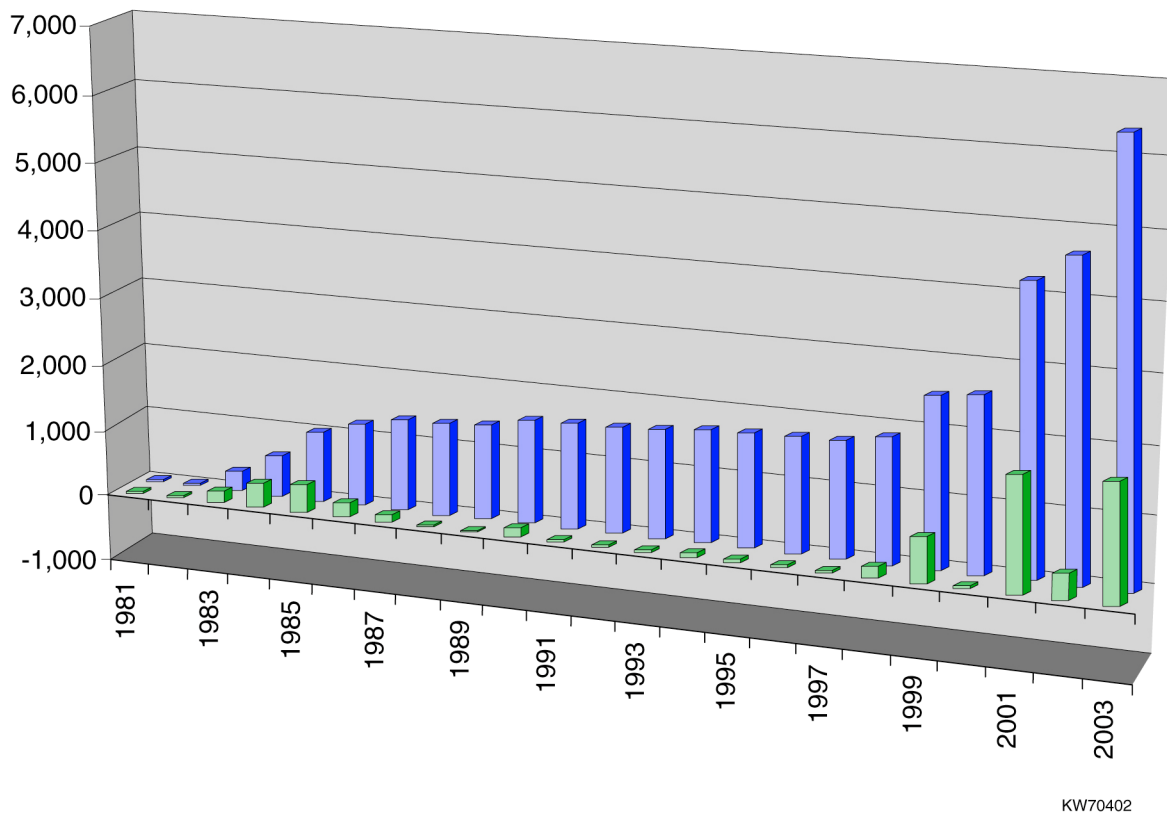
by the AWEA indicate that the total installed capacity for all domestic commercial wind energy as of December 2003 was 6,374 MW, with 1,687 MW coming on line in 2003, which was a 36% increase from the capacity at the previous year's end (AWEA 2004d). Calendar year 2003 compared favorably with the previous year, showing a worldwide increase in capacity of 6,868 MW to reach a total of 31,128 MW and a U.S. increase of 410 MW to reach a year-end total of 4,685 MW, which represents 15% of the world's market (AWEA 2003a). Of the current total domestic capacity of 6,374 MW, 2,999.7 MW (or 47%) is being produced in the 11-state study area of this PEIS. The increase in overall generating capacity has been accompanied by a steady increase in individual turbine proportions and capacities. In the late 1980s, average turbine power outputs averaged 450 kW. Outputs increased to an average of 600 to 750 kW by the late 1990s. Now, individual turbines with ratings greater than 2 MW (2,000 kW) are commonplace (McGowan and Connors 2000).

#### About the AWEA

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) is a national trade association that represents wind power plant developers, wind turbine manufacturers, utilities, consultants, insurers, financiers, researchers, and others involved or interested in the wind energy industry. The AWEA provides up-to-date information on wind energy projects operating worldwide and projects under development, and it conducts technology and policy development activities related to wind energy.

The AWEA compiles and regularly updates relevant domestic and worldwide statistics on the wind energy industry and makes them available to industry participants, the interested general public, and the news media. These data are available at the association's Web site at <http://www.awea.org>. Also available on the AWEA Web site is access to various wind-energy-related information resources, including wind energy fact sheets and a catalogue of related publications. The AWEA also publishes a weekly newsletter devoted to wind energy news and hosts an annual national conference, WINDPOWER. Detailed information on AWEA activities and services can be obtained by visiting the Web site.

Information developed by the AWEA has been incorporated into this PEIS without independent verification. The BLM does not endorse the AWEA and does not make any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of the data it provides.

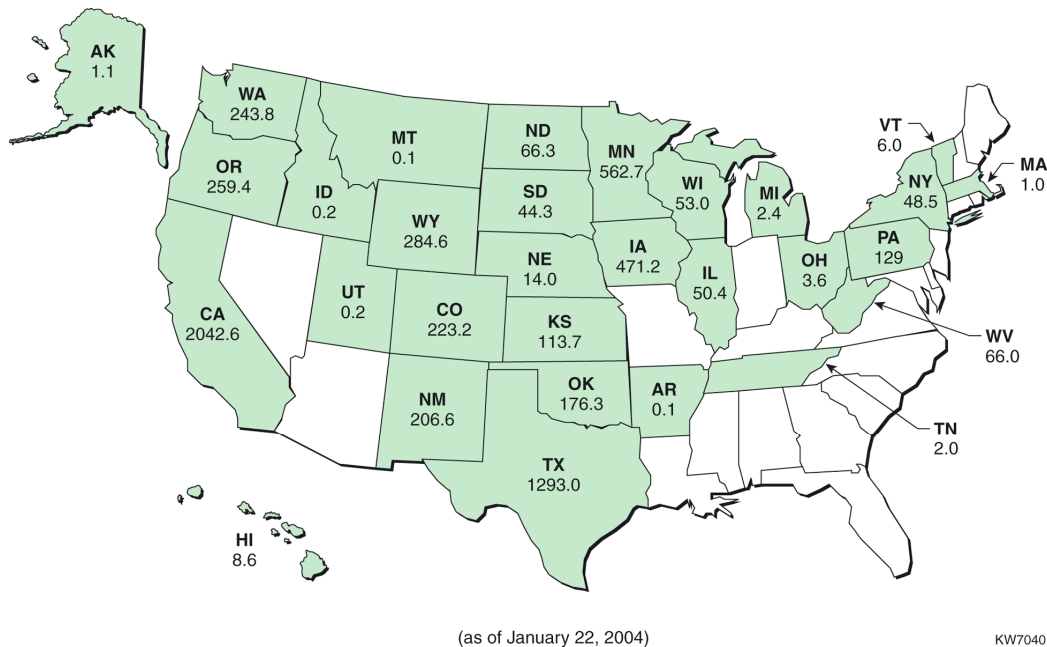


**FIGURE D-6 U.S. Installed Capacity (MW) for 1981 through 2003 (Source: AWEA 2004d. Reprinted with permission. Courtesy of the AWEA.)**

Figure D-7 shows the distribution of wind energy power-generating capacity across the United States. The numbers represent power capacities of utility-scale wind farms only, all of which deliver power directly to the electric power transmission grid. Additional power capacities from distributed energy systems are not included. The power capacities represent nameplate ratings and are rarely realized in practice. (See the discussion on typical capacity factors in Section D.5.2.) Within the 11-state study area for the PEIS, the total installed wind energy capacity is 2,999.7 MW.

Table D-1 lists the commercial wind energy projects completed in 2003. Projects completed within the 11-state study area are in bold type. The projects listed in the table represent new wind farms and phased expansions, or “repowering” of existing wind farms (i.e., replacing existing turbines with ones of newer design). Facility expansions and repowering activities are not expected to have the same array and magnitude of impacting factors as would a completely new facility. By definition, such site modifications are outside the scope of this PEIS.

In general, the number of manufacturers of wind turbines has greatly decreased from earlier years. In fact, a number of manufacturers have gone out of business. However, also represented in this decline are a number of mergers among manufacturers.



**FIGURE D-7 Wind Energy Projects in the United States (Source: Adapted from AWEA 2004a. Reproduced with permission. Courtesy of the AWEA.)**

Table D-1 lists the manufacturers of commercial wind turbines whose products were installed in U.S. wind farm projects in 2003. Although there are many other manufacturers, those listed in Table D-1 nevertheless represent a cross section of vendors. One should therefore take a more careful look at the turbine models offered by these vendors. Table D-2 lists the ranges of values for critical parameters of wind turbines installed in 2003. Although it is assumed that installations in 2003 constitute a reasonable representation of the most current facility installations and expansions, there is still a possibility that future wind farms will utilize turbines from other manufacturers. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to assume that the turbines installed in 2003 met the technical requirements of the sites at which they were installed. It is therefore also reasonable to assume that future developments at sites with similar wind regimes may also utilize turbines with these approximate specifications.

It is not the BLM's intention to endorse any specific equipment manufacturer.<sup>22</sup> Consequently, rather than present the specifications of individual turbines, the table displays a range of values for each parameter that is addressed. Only design specifications that were readily available from manufacturers' Web sites are included in the range calculations. Not always accurately reflected in the range value displayed, but nevertheless important for anticipating future wind farm characteristics, is the fact that many manufacturers offer modules rather than complete turbines, providing a number of options for each major component. Thus, the developer can custom build a turbine that is precisely suited to a particular site's wind conditions and to the

<sup>22</sup> For a comprehensive list of turbine manufacturers, consult AWEA (2004b) or commercial business source guides such as Momentum Technologies, LLC (2004).

**TABLE D-1 Wind Energy Projects Installed in 2003<sup>a</sup>**

| State             | Project Name                  | Location   | Capacity (MW) | Developer                      | Turbine Manufacturer | No. of Wind Turbines |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Alaska            | Selawik Wind Project          | Selawik  | 0.2           | Kotzebue Electric Association  | AOC                  | 4                    |
| Arkansas          | Bitworks                      | Prairie Grove Industrial Park, Washington County | 0.1           | Bitworks, Inc                  | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| <b>California</b> | <b>High Winds</b>             | <b>Solano</b>                                    | <b>162</b>    | <b>FPL Energy</b>              | <b>Vestas</b>        | <b>90</b>            |
| <b>California</b> | <b>Mountain View III</b>      | <b>San Geronio</b>                               | <b>22.44</b>  | <b>PPM Energy</b>              | <b>Vestas</b>        | <b>34</b>            |
| <b>California</b> |                               | <b>Sacramento</b>                                | <b>9.9</b>    | <b>SMUD</b>                    | <b>Vestas</b>        | <b>15</b>            |
| <b>California</b> | <b>CalWind II CEC-repower</b> | <b>Tehachapi</b>                                 | <b>8.58</b>   | <b>CalWind Resources, Inc.</b> | <b>Vestas</b>        | <b>13</b>            |
| <b>California</b> | <b>Whitewater expansion</b>   |  | <b>4.5</b>    | <b>Cannon Power Corp.</b>      | <b>GE Wind</b>       | <b>3</b>             |
| <b>California</b> | <b>Karen Avenue II</b>        | <b>San Geronio</b>                               | <b>4.5</b>    | <b>San Geronio Farms</b>       | <b>GE Wind</b>       | <b>3</b>             |
| <b>Colorado</b>   | <b>Colorado Green</b>         | <b>Near Lamar</b>                                | <b>162</b>    | <b>GE Wind</b>                 | <b>GE Wind</b>       | <b>108</b>           |
| <b>Idaho</b>      | <b>Lewandoski wind farm</b>   |  | <b>0.216</b>  | <b>Bob Lewandoski</b>          |                      | <b>2</b>             |
| Illinois          | Mendota Hills                 | Lee County, near Mendota                         | 50.4          | Navitas Energy                 | Gamesa Eolica        | 63                   |
| Iowa              | Flying Cloud                  | Near Spirit Lake                                 | 43.5          | PPM Energy                     | GE Wind              | 29                   |
| Iowa              | Henry Hills                   | Osceola County, near Sibley                      | 3.6           | Northern Alternative Energy    | Gamesa Eolica        | 2                    |
| Iowa              | Lenox                         | Lenox  | 0.75          | Lenox Municipal                | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| Iowa              | Wall Lake                     | Wall Lake  | 0.66          | Wall Lake Municipal            | Vestas               | 1                    |
| Iowa              | Sibley Hills                  | Near Sibley                                      | 0.66          | Northern Alternative Energy    | Vestas               | 1                    |

**TABLE D-1 (Cont.)**

| State             | Project Name                               | Location                       | Capacity (MW) | Developer                     | Turbine Manufacturer | No. of Wind Turbines |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Minnesota         | Chanarambie                                | Murray County                  | 85.5          | enXco                         | GE Wind              | 57                   |
| Minnesota         | Moraine Wind Power Project                 | Pipestone & Murray Counties    | 51            | PPM Energy                    | GE Wind              | 34                   |
| Minnesota         | Farmers' cooperative corporations          |                                | 22.8          | DanMar & Associates           | Suzlon Energy        | 24                   |
| Minnesota         | McNeilus                                   | Near Minn. Highway 56          | 22.8          | Garwin McNeilus               | NEG Micon            | 24                   |
| Minnesota         | McNeilus                                   |                                | 16.5          | Garwin McNeilus               | NEG Micon            | 11                   |
| Minnesota         | Viking                                     | Murray County                  | 12            | Project Resources             |                      | 8                    |
| Minnesota         | McNeilus                                   |                                | 6             | Garwin McNeilus               | NEG Micon            | 4                    |
| Minnesota         | Fairmont                                   | Fairmont                       | 1.9           | SMPMA                         | NEG Micon            | 2                    |
| Minnesota         | Missouri River Energy Systems              | Worthington                    | 1.9           | Missouri River Energy Systems | NEG Micon            | 2                    |
| Minnesota         | Shaokatan Power Partners                   | Lincoln County, near Hendricks | 1.6           | Northern Alternative Energy   | Gamesa Eolica        | 2                    |
| Minnesota         | McNeilus                                   |                                | 1.65          | Garwin McNeilus               | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| Minnesota         | Don Sieve Wind Farm                        | Lincoln Co.                    | 0.95          | Diversified Energy Solutions  | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| Minnesota         |  | Lincoln Co.                    | 0.9           | Diversified Energy Solutions  | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| Minnesota         | Pipestone School District                  |                                | 0.75          | Pipestone School District     | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| <b>New Mexico</b> | <b>New Mexico Wind Energy Center</b>       | <b>Quay, DeBaca Counties</b>   | <b>204</b>    | <b>FPL Energy</b>             | <b>GE Wind</b>       | <b>136</b>           |
| <b>New Mexico</b> | <b>Llano Estacado Wind Ranch at Texico</b> |                                | <b>1.32</b>   | <b>Cielo Wind Power</b>       | <b>Vestas</b>        | <b>2</b>             |

**TABLE D-1 (Cont.)**

| State             | Project Name                 | Location                  | Capacity (MW) | Developer                               | Turbine Manufacturer | No. of Wind Turbines |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| North Dakota      |                              | Near Edgeley              | 40.5          | FPL Energy                              | GE Wind              | 27                   |
| North Dakota      |                              | Near Kulm                 | 21            | FPL Energy                              | GE Wind              | 14                   |
| Ohio              |                              | Bowling Green             | 3.6           | Bowling Green Municipal                 | Vestas               | 2                    |
| Oklahoma          | Blue Canyon Wind Power       | North of Lawton           | 74.25         | Zilkha Renewable Energy & Kirmart Corp. | NEG Micon            | 45                   |
| Oklahoma          |                              | Near Woodland             | 51            | FPL Energy                              | GE Wind              | 34                   |
| Oklahoma          |                              | Near Woodland             | 51            | FPL Energy                              | GE Wind              | 34                   |
| <b>Oregon</b>     | <b>Combine Hills</b>         |                           | <b>41</b>     | <b>Eurus</b>                            | <b>Mitsubishi</b>    | <b>41</b>            |
| Pennsylvania      | Waymart                      | Clinton & Canaan Township | 64.5          | FPL Energy                              | GE Wind              | 43                   |
| Pennsylvania      | Meyersdale                   | Somerset                  | 30            | FPL Energy                              | NEG Micon            | 20                   |
| South Dakota      | Highmore                     | Near Highmore             | 40.5          | FPL Energy                              | GE Wind              | 27                   |
| South Dakota      | Rosebud Sioux                |                           | 0.75          | DisGen                                  | NEG Micon            | 1                    |
| Texas             | Brazos Wind Ranch            | 90 miles south of Lubbock | 160           | Cielo Wind Power/Orion Energy           | Mitsubishi           | 160                  |
| Texas             | Sweetwater                   | Sweetwater                | 37.5          | DKR/Babcock-Brown                       | GE Wind              | 25                   |
| Texas             | Hansford County, Texas       |                           | 3             | FPL Energy                              | Vestas               | 1                    |
| Texas             | Indian Mesa                  |                           | 3             |   | Vestas               | 1                    |
| <b>Washington</b> | <b>Nine Canyon, Phase II</b> | <b>Benton County</b>      | <b>15.6</b>   | <b>Energy Northwest</b>                 | <b>Bonus</b>         | <b>12</b>            |
| <b>Wyoming</b>    | <b>Evanston</b>              | <b>Evanston</b>           | <b>144</b>    | <b>FPL Energy</b>                       | <b>Vestas</b>        | <b>80</b>            |

<sup>a</sup> Bold type indicates projects within the 11-state study area.

Source: Adapted from AWEA (2003b). Reprinted by permission. Courtesy of the AWEA.

**TABLE D-2 Specifications for Wind Turbines Installed in 2003<sup>a</sup>**

| Parameter <sup>b</sup>                               | Ranges for Available Options <sup>c</sup>  |
|--|--|
| Power (nameplate rating) <sup>d</sup>                | 200 kW–3.6 MW  |
| Turbine type   | Upwind HAWT  |
| Cut-in speed (m/s)                                   | 2.5–4.0  |
| Nominal wind speed (m/s)                             | 11–16  |
| Cut-out speed (m/s)                                  | 25   |
| Rotor diameter (m)                                   | 30–104   |
| Rotor-swept area (m <sup>2</sup> )                   | 706–8495   |
| Rotor speed (rpm)                                    | 8–46   |
| Rotor hub height (m) <sup>e</sup>                    | 30–120   |
| Tower construction material                          | Cylindrical or tubular steel, hot-dip galvanized lattice steel, combination concrete and tubular steel |
| Tower weight (kg) <sup>f</sup>                       | <30,500–216,780  |
| Nacelle weight (excluding rotor) (kg) <sup>e,f</sup> | <19,954–55,329   |
| Rotor weight (kg) <sup>g</sup>                       | <9,070–30,839  |
| Total weight (kg) <sup>h</sup>                       | <37,188–158,300  |

<sup>a</sup> Data presented in this table represent the range of options offered by the manufacturers listed in Table D-1 for which data were readily available. No attempt was made to identify the specific turbine models used in the 2003 projects. Instead, all available models of the manufacturers listed were used to compute the ranges. Additional information on individual turbine models is available at that turbine manufacturer's Web site. Web sites are listed here as follows:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Atlantic Orient Corp.   | <a href="http://www.aocwind.net/specs.htm">http://www.aocwind.net/specs.htm</a>   |
| Bonus Energy Products   | <a href="http://www.bonus.dk/uk/produkter/">http://www.bonus.dk/uk/produkter/</a>   |
| Gamesa Eolica           | <a href="http://www.gamesa.es/ingles/nucleos_negocio/gamesa_eolica/presentacion/presentacion.htm">http://www.gamesa.es/ingles/nucleos_negocio/gamesa_eolica/presentacion/presentacion.htm</a> |
| GE Energy               | <a href="http://www.gepower.com/businesses/ge_wind_energy/en/products.htm">http://www.gepower.com/businesses/ge_wind_energy/en/products.htm</a>   |
| Mitsubishi Electric     | <a href="http://www.global.mitsubishielectric.com/bu/windpower/index2_b.html">http://www.global.mitsubishielectric.com/bu/windpower/index2_b.html</a>   |
| NEG-Micon               | <a href="http://www.neg-micon.com">http://www.neg-micon.com</a> (Only limited data are available; data are not included in ranges presented in the table.)                                    |
| Suzlon Energy           | <a href="http://www.suzlon.com/technical_data">http://www.suzlon.com/technical_data</a>   |
| Vestas Wind Systems A/S | <a href="http://www.vestas.com/produkter/">http://www.vestas.com/produkter/</a>   |

<sup>b</sup> By industry convention, all specifications are presented in metric units.

<sup>c</sup> Range does not include data from AOC Model 15/50 turbine, the use of which has been confined to distributed energy systems in remote locations.

<sup>d</sup> Range represents individual turbine nameplate ratings. Additional specifications for power generation and management devices are available at the manufacturers' Web sites. However, since these devices have little or no influence on the environmental impacts of an operating wind turbine, they are not represented here.

<sup>e</sup> Rotor hub height is considered to be approximately equivalent to tower height, measured from ground elevation.

**Footnotes continued on next page.**



**TABLE D-2 (Cont.)**

- 
- <sup>f</sup> All weights are approximate; the weight range is based on models manufactured by Vestas Wind Systems A/S and Bonus Energy Products only. The weight of the smallest tower option was not available.
- <sup>g</sup> Rotor weight includes active pitch control equipment, if present.
- <sup>h</sup> Nacelle weights may differ as a result of drivetrain component selection.

Source: Derived from AWEA (2003b).

stipulations of a particular interconnection agreement with the transmission line operator. For the reader's convenience, the Web sites for the manufacturers whose turbines are represented in the range of values displayed are provided as footnotes to Table D-2.

The data displayed in Table D-1 appear to support the following conclusions about the characteristics of future wind farms. Notwithstanding the fact that calendar year 2003 was an exceptional year for industry growth, a reasonable assumption is that the projects that went on line in 2003 reflect the state of the technology with respect to commercially available wind turbines. Another reasonable assumption is that the wind turbine models installed in 2003 offered operating parameters that matched well with the specific conditions at the sites at which they were installed. A further assumption is that future sites with wind characteristics similar to those at sites developed in 2003 will utilize turbines with operating parameters similar to those displayed in Table D-2.

Following a strategy of extracting the maximum potential wind energy from a given site will minimize the overall environmental impacts. However, phased site development can cause changes to some impacting factors related to site development and operation. Some of the impacts in phased development will simply be additive over time. For example, the noise levels from individual turbines will be logarithmically additive for each turbine installed; however, because of the expected distances between turbines in a typical wind farm, the addition of each turbine will increase the area potentially impacted by noise, but it will not substantially increase the average or maximum noise levels throughout that area. Site topographic features can also greatly influence noise levels at a given distance from a noise source. See Section 4.5 of the PEIS for a detailed discussion on noise generation and propagation and Section 5.5 for a discussion on potential noise impacts from wind farms. Impacting factors associated with turbine foundations and erections will also be additive within a given phase of development and then reoccur during subsequent development phases, although not necessarily at the same magnitude or for the same duration. Other impacts related to initial site development may not reoccur at all during subsequent site expansions. For example, if it is assumed that the initial site development plan accounts for all future site expansions, a single main site access road can be selected and constructed as part of initial site development, and it can continue to serve as the site access road for subsequent phases of development. In such a scenario, only the expansions of on-site roads would be impacting factors in later development phases.

## **D.7 WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

A review of the current state of the commercial wind turbine market can provide a basis for predicting the types of turbines that are likely to be installed at future sites. However, it is also reasonable to predict that future site developers will avail themselves of technological advances and improved performance models. Therefore, a brief review of wind energy industry R&D activities is warranted. Although much of the R&D effort has been undertaken by the equipment manufacturers, the federal government also provides support. The discussions below are confined to R&D activities unique to the commercial wind energy industry. Note that R&D efforts to improve the design and performance of many of the major components of a wind turbine, such as transmissions and electrical generators, are also ongoing within the respective industry sectors. Likewise, R&D efforts in the general area of monitoring and control systems continue as well. Although these R&D efforts are not discussed here, it is assumed that wind farm developers and/or equipment manufacturers will incorporate technological advances from these other sectors into their wind farms and turbines at appropriate times.

### **D.7.1 Industry-Sponsored Research and Development**

Leading equipment manufacturers are already engaged in R&D on many aspects of their products. Their primary objective is to maintain or improve their competitive positions in the markets in which they operate. R&D can also help them conform to quality standards (Section D.8).

Industry research focuses on improving the reliability of major components, improving overall efficiency, reducing manufacturing costs, and mitigating the adverse aspects of individual products. For example, manufacturers who hope to participate in the European wind energy market are exploring ways to mitigate the noise signals of their equipment. Because most wind farms in Europe are located close to inhabited areas, controlling noise is critical to maintaining market position. In its overview of worldwide wind energy industry trends, Shikha et al. (2003) found that continuous improvements were being made to applied technologies in the expanding wind energy industry. They found that energy output capacities of individual turbines increased 100-fold in the 15 years ending in 2003, while the overall weight of turbines was halved in the 5 years ending in 2003, and the noise emitted was halved over the 3-year period ending in 2003. Steady gains were attributed to a number of factors, including improved aerodynamics, improved structural dynamics, and improved micrometeorology, which resulted in precise turbine siting at the most ideal location. Additional improvements were attributed to the increase in rotor size and improved blade performance. Together with the benefits derived from reduced rotor weight, overall improvements in the drivetrain design and the reliability of individual components also resulted in a reduction in O&M costs. It is estimated that O&M costs constitute as much as 10 to 15% of the unit energy costs of a new wind farm; however, O&M costs increase to 20 to 30% near the end of the farm's design life (McGowan and Connors 2000). However, O&M costs are also expected to rise slightly over the design life of the turbine. Steady improvements in drivetrain design and efficiency are expected to reduce O&M costs from a U.S. average of \$0.01/kWh in 1997 to \$0.005/kWh by 2005 (McGowan and Connors 2000).

Manufacturers are also adopting modular design strategies that allow the replacement of individual turbine drivetrain components, thereby reducing downtime and costs. Often such strategies are further enhanced by equipping towers with internal lifting devices that allow the replacement of individual components without the necessity of bringing heavy-duty lifting devices to the site to remove the rotor assembly and/or the entire nacelle.

Although the majority of industry R&D initiatives focus on improving the design and efficiency of rotors and turbine drivetrain components, some innovative tower designs and materials can also affect future wind farms. Early wind farms utilized lattice-type towers (Figure D-8). However, smooth-skinned, tapered steel towers now dominate the commercial utility-scale market. The size and weight of the steel towers required for larger turbines increase installation costs and create significant problems related to the transportation of both the tower segments and the cranes required for their erection. A number of innovative tower designs and erection methodologies have been developed to overcome these impediments. Towers that can be erected by using mobile, temporary elevators have been developed, obviating the need for independent cranes and thus greatly simplifying erection costs and reducing transportation logistics (e.g., see Valmont 2004). A government-sponsored study completed in May 2001 identified a number of unique tower erection strategies and evaluated each against its impact on the overall cost of energy produced (Global Energy Concepts, LLC 2001). Two technologies were evaluated in depth and compared with conventional crane technologies. The study concluded that one of the two alternative erection methods compared favorably to conventional cranes for 1.5-MW and larger turbines, but it was more expensive than conventional cranes for smaller turbines. The study further postulated that alternative erection methodologies might be favored over conventional cranes for sites with complex terrain or difficult access, but they could be at a disadvantage at sites with significant wind shear. Other developments include constructing towers of tubular carbon composites in an integrated pyramidal shape, resulting in stronger and substantially lighter towers (e.g., IsoTruss Structures, Inc. 2004). Again, such lighter towers can substantially reduce transportation logistics and reduce site development costs.



**FIGURE D-8 Lattice-Type Wind Turbine Tower in South Dakota (A Vestas Model V17 wind turbine mounted on a lattice-type tower in Gary, South Dakota. Photo credit: Energy Maintenance Service, Inc., Sept. 1, 2002. Source: Photo # 12449, NREL 2004b.)**

## D.7.2 Government-Sponsored Research and Development

Government-sponsored research and government-industry partnerships also account for a major portion of ongoing R&D efforts. DOE/EERE is the principal funding agency for government-sponsored research. Government participation also includes the personnel and facilities of NREL in Boulder, Colorado, and Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Government-industry partnerships proceed under the auspices of DOE's Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) program. Under CRADA programs, government and industry collaborate to identify and better understand the fundamental science and engineering issues critical to technology advancement. Government personnel also conduct tests on prototypes and develop software that aids designers. Industries then have access to the published reports on CRADA research and use their contents to shape their own additional technology R&D. The government-industry partnership in DOE's Wind Energy Program is known as the Wind Partnerships for Advanced Component Technologies (WindPACT).<sup>23</sup>

DOE's R&D objectives and strategies are outlined in *Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program; Wind Energy Program Multi Year Technical Plan for 2004–2010* (EERE 2003). The overall strategic objective is to protect the nation's energy security by fostering the development of technologies that utilize a diverse supply of affordable and environmentally sound energy. Specific research objectives are defined in terms of reducing the ultimate costs of electricity generated by wind energy. Individual research initiatives, or technology improvement opportunities (TIOs), are distributed throughout all segments of the wind energy industry. The research initiatives of greatest importance to the utility-scale sector of the industry include improving the viability of low-wind-speed technology and facilitating the application of technologies and technological advances by engaging in fundamental research, developing quality standards and certification programs, conducting field verification tests, and analyzing and addressing technological and market impediments.

Researchers have identified a number of TIOs, including the following:

- Advanced drivetrain designs that use rare-earth permanent magnets for excitation, reduced gear box stages, and low- and medium-speed generators;
- Advanced power electronics that allow variable-speed operation while improving overall power capture/conversion efficiencies;
- Advanced rotors that use adaptive blades; and
- Advanced tower designs and materials that either reduce erection costs and simplify transportation logistics or are fabricated completely on site.

---

<sup>23</sup> Many of the WindPACT technical reports may be accessed electronically at the NREL and Sandia Web sites; see NREL (2004a) and Sandia National Laboratories (2004d).

Research critical to the advancement of utility-scale turbines, especially in lower wind power classes,<sup>24</sup> includes the development of (1) advanced rotors; (2) a more complete understanding of a site's atmospheric dynamics; (3) improved generator, drivetrain, and power management subsystems; and (4) better integrated operational controls.

Turbines harvesting wind at lower wind classes are expected to need larger RSAs and operate at higher hub elevations. Rotor development focuses on the development of blades that are stiffer and stronger but also more slender, lighter, and more flexible (i.e., more adaptive to the dynamic forces they will encounter during operation). These apparently mutually exclusive characteristics hold the key to the successful advancement of large turbines. Although blade technology has already advanced significantly, it is thought that new materials and fabrication methods, as well as new design philosophies and criteria, will be necessary to support further substantial technological advances. Prototype blades made of long-fiber carbon composites are being tested for durability, and manufacturing processes are being refined.<sup>25</sup> If successful, this research will lead to turbines with greater RSAs and power-capturing efficiencies. There are, nevertheless, technical and economic limits to blade length. Rotor weight increases by the cube of its swept area, while the rated power efficiency increases by the square of the swept area. Consequently, there are some diminishing ROIs in the development of extremely long blades. Furthermore, with regard to extremely long blades, gravitational forces and torsional forces on the hub and the rotor shaft will become controlling forces in turbine design. Finally, as noted earlier, the torque produced by the rotor shaft increases with the square of the rotor diameter, thus significantly increasing the demand on transmissions and generators to withstand such increased torque moments. Some anticipate that the point at which these adverse forces will preempt rotor size expansions will be reached at rotor diameters of 256 ft (200 m), although the introduction of lightweight composites, such as fiber-reinforced plastics, may extend the practical rotor diameter to even greater values (Milborrow 2002).

Other possible dividends from increased blade length include lower operating costs and less aerodynamic noise. However, another real-world consequence of the use of very long blades is significant transportation logistics. Research conducted by Sandia and its contractor has explored the possibility of manufacturing turbine blades at the wind farm location (TPI Composites, Inc. 2003). The research concluded that on-site manufacturing was fraught with significant quality control issues and not feasible at this time. However, fabrication of the blades at nearby manufacturing sites (i.e., sites specifically constructed to support blade fabrication for use at a particular wind farm) was still considered feasible, since such a strategy would significantly reduce transportation distances and, if located judiciously, would significantly simplify transportation logistics. Other scaling and related logistics issues associated with transportation and erection also accompany any consideration for significantly enlarging wind turbines. WindPACT research initiatives will identify these obstacles and evaluate ways to overcome them.

---

<sup>24</sup> Within the context of the WindPACT program, DOE defines lower wind classes as Class 4 and below ( $\leq 5.8$  m/s [13 mpg] at a height of 10 m [33 ft]).

<sup>25</sup> See Sandia National Laboratories (2004c) for access to published reports of blade research being conducted by Sandia.

Up to this point of development, rotor aerodynamic design criteria have borrowed heavily from aerodynamic codes<sup>26</sup> developed in the aircraft industry. However, these codes do not reflect the aerodynamic conditions in which a wind turbine operates to a sufficiently high level of precision. New code development efforts are necessary to better understand the aerodynamic forces affecting both the performance and reliability of turbine rotor blades. Newly developed and validated codes will expedite the development of design criteria for longer, lighter, and more slender adaptive blades that can withstand dynamic forces and also impart minimum loads on the turbine drivetrain.

A more complete understanding of aerodynamic forces impinging on turbine blades will also allow designers to mitigate aerodynamic noise impacts. Another facet of research is the development of a semiempirical noise prediction code to be used by rotor and blade designers to ensure that new rotor systems have acceptable noise signatures.

As turbines become larger and operate at higher rotor hub heights, additional information about the atmospheric dynamics at these higher altitudes will be necessary to support design and micro-siting decisions. It has already been established that the tallest turbines may be influenced by jet stream turbulence, especially by what are known as nocturnal jets (DOE 2002). Such turbulence is routinely present in low wind power classes, especially in the Great Plains regions. Successful advancement of wind turbines in such areas, especially in lower wind power classes, requires a much more complete understanding of jet stream turbulence and candidate site aerodynamics.

Other research initiatives on improving the power generation and management performance of the electric generator will have a direct impact on the interconnectivity of turbine power into the electrical grid but are expected to have little impact on environmental factors. Nevertheless, such improvements in overall turbine performance efficiency can be expected to reduce the mechanical noise emanating from the turbine blades and drivetrain components, as well as to reduce the number of breakdowns and maintenance shutdowns.

Finally, research on the advancement of integrated systems and controls attempts to enhance the precision with which turbines are monitored and controlled, promising better control of yaw and blade pitch to maximize performance. Such research pays its greatest dividends by improving the interconnection opportunities for wind farms. However, maintaining the turbine's operation at the highest performance level is also expected to improve overall reliability and reduce unwanted impacts that are manifestations of inefficiency (such as aerodynamic noise).

## **D.8 TESTING AND VERIFICATION PROGRAMS**

DOE sponsorship of wind energy R&D also extends to field testing and verification programs. NREL and Sandia personnel, in collaboration with representatives of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), other wind energy industry participants, and individual wind

---

<sup>26</sup> Aerodynamic codes are an industry convention that describe the geometries of differently shaped airfoils.

farm operators, conduct evaluations of wind project development experiences and conduct field verifications of critical aspects of operational wind farms. The verification efforts help to identify issues related to site development, as well as design and operation, and provide the empirical basis for additional research on how to address or eliminate those issues. Published reports provide the opportunity for transferring lessons learned to other interested parties. Additional details about these verification programs and the published reports are available on the NREL and Sandia Web sites (NREL 2004c; Sandia National Laboratories 2004d).

## D.9 STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

One clear indication of the maturation of the wind energy industry is the development and application of quality standards. International standards are already largely in place. Analogous U.S. standards are under development. Standards related to wind energy turbines promulgated by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) are listed in Table D-3. The AWEA is the U.S. industry representative to this international standard-setting body. Many turbine manufacturers voluntarily conform to these standards to maintain their competitive position in the marketplace and to better guarantee the connectivity of wind-generated electric power to transmission grids. Conformance with international standards is a requirement for some wind farms in Europe.

U.S. wind energy industry consensus standards have been under development since 1974. The AWEA is the lead organization in domestic standard development. The development process involves the participation of various industry organizations, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), American Gear Manufacturers Association (AGMA), and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Personnel from NREL and Sandia also participate in standards development. Domestic standards are expected to parallel and be compatible with IEC standards in order to ensure that American manufacturers maintain their access to European markets.

**TABLE D-3 International Wind Turbine Standards**

| Standard No.     | Title                                   |
|------------------|---|
| IEC 61400-1      | Wind Turbine Safety and Design          |
| IEC 61400-1 Ed 2 | Wind Turbine Safety and Design Revision |
| IEC 61400-2      | Small Wind Turbine Safety               |
| IEC 61400-12     | Power Performance                       |
| IEC 61400-11     | Noise Measurement                       |
| IEC 61400-13     | Mechanical Load Measurements            |
| IEC 61400-22     | Wind Turbine Certification              |
| IEC 61400-23     | Blade Structural Testing                |
| IEC 61400-21     | Power Quality                           |

In addition to quality standards for the design and construction of major turbine components, international standards are in place for the certification of turbines and ancillary systems by independent third-party auditors. Leading equipment manufacturers routinely submit their products and systems to such certifications so that they have evidence that their quality and performance goals have been met. Personnel from NREL are working in collaboration with Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) to develop analogous domestic certification standards and processes. Until those are in place, U.S. manufacturers are submitting their products and systems to certification against the international standards.

As the wind energy industry continues to mature, it is reasonable to expect that future wind farm developers and their equipment vendors will conform to applicable quality standards and submit their products and systems to third-party certifications. Conformance to quality standards and certifications provides a better guarantee of safe design and construction and generally increases both the reliability and performance of major wind turbine components. Given the levels of participation that already exist, it is reasonable to conclude that proposals for future wind farms and the equipment represented in those proposals will involve a commitment to conform to all applicable quality standards and to submit to all relevant third-party certifications.

#### **D.10 IMPACTING FACTORS RELATED TO REASONABLY FORESEEABLE SITE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

The data in Tables D-1 and D-2 provide a reasonable representation of commercially available turbines and allow a reasonable prediction of the types of turbines that will be used in future sites. They are less adequate, however, in supporting further conclusions regarding site development. Nevertheless, past project experiences, together with the current state of wind energy technology and the advances expected from ongoing R&D activities, lend support to the following likely future site development scenarios.

- Business plans for future sites will involve developing candidate sites to their fullest wind energy potential as a means of quickly amortizing initial site development costs.
- The majority of large or extensive wind farms will probably be developed in phases, with the schedule of development being based largely on available development capital, as well as on myriad electric power market conditions. It is less likely that development will be speculative (i.e., built in advance of electric power sale agreements with transmission line operators) (Osborne 2004).<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, speculative construction (sometimes referred to as a merchant plant) in advance of electric market agreements has occurred in the past.



- Sites developed in phases will not necessarily consist of the same turbine model throughout the site, and portions of the site may be owned and operated by more than one business entity.<sup>28</sup>
- Future sites are likely to take advantage of state-of-the-art wind turbine technology, leading to larger and taller but fewer turbines at a given site.
- It is possible that existing sites will expand into less-ideal areas that cannot, at this time, be economically farmed for wind energy by state-of-the-art turbine technologies.
- Sites may be repowered by replacing original turbines with technologically advanced models.<sup>29</sup>
- Modular construction of turbines will allow for their customization to address site-specific characteristics. Modular construction, together with sophisticated SCADA systems, now make it technically feasible for future farms to consist of various models of turbines operating at different elevations on the basis of site-specific wind regime characteristics.
- Site development strategies will take fullest advantage of economies of scale. Activities will be grouped by type (e.g., foundations for all planned turbines will be installed over the same period), thereby simplifying logistics.
- Although the majority of wind turbine construction will still occur at the manufacturer's facility, larger turbines, longer and more slender adaptive blades, and taller towers will impose unique problems related to the transportation of those components and may result in additional subassembly work being conducted on site during site construction.

---

<sup>28</sup> The Foote Creek Rim site, located near Arlington, Wyoming, is an example of one possible wind farm development scenario. This project, which was initiated on BLM-administered land and has subsequently been expanded to adjacent non-BLM-administered lands, represents one of the most ideal wind regimes in existence, with average wind speeds in excess of 23 mph (37 km/h). Four separate wind farms have been developed by two separate developers, delivering electric power to three separate utilities. The first farm, completed in April 1999, involved the erection of sixty-nine 600-kW turbines built by Mitsubishi (Model 600) and distributed over a land area of 2,156 acres (872 ha). The footprints of the turbines, control buildings, and other structures make up less than 1% of the land area in the parcel. A second farm completed in June 1999 added an additional three Mitsubishi turbines and 1.8 MW of generating capacity. A third farm, also completed in June 1999, added 33 NEG Micon turbines, representing a capacity of 24.8 MW. A final phase of development, completed in October 2000, involved an additional 16.8 MW of capacity from an additional 28 Mitsubishi Model 600 turbines. The remainder of the parcel continues to be used for ranching, as was the case before the wind farm was constructed.

<sup>29</sup> Repowering is already occurring. Many of the wind farms constructed in California in the early 1980s have been repowered. See the attachment to this appendix.

- The use of innovative, self-erecting towers constructed of lightweight composite materials may dramatically minimize problems related to transportation logistics and site development times and costs. Reduced transportation requirements may expand the array of candidate sites to some that were previously excluded because of access difficulties.
- Equipment manufacturers can be expected to conform to international quality standards for manufacturing and operation (and to analogous U.S. standards as they are promulgated) as a way of maintaining market competitiveness. This conformance to standards will, in turn, lead to higher quality and greater reliability of major turbine components. Maintenance intervals are expected to increase as maintenance procedures become more regimented and are based on empirically derived isochronal factors rather than elapsed time.
- Sophisticated SCADA systems will allow wind turbines at a given site to operate independently of one another, enabling the economical development of sites with different wind regimes throughout.
- It will become increasingly feasible for wind farms to include ancillary technologies, such as battery charging and elevated water storage, which will allow for the delayed delivery of wind-generated electricity to the transmission grid.
- The expanded capabilities and operating ranges of turbines will allow economical harvesting of wind energy at sites with Class 3 wind regimes.

## D.11 REFERENCES FOR APPENDIX D

AWEA (American Wind Energy Association), 2003a, *Record Growth for Global Wind Power in 2002*, news release, March 3. Available at <http://www.awea.org/news/news030303.gbl.html>. Accessed March 2004.

AWEA, 2003b, *Projects Completed in 2003 (Preliminary)*. Available at <http://www.awea.org/projects/summaries/2003projects.pdf>. Accessed March 2004.

AWEA, 2004a, *Wind Energy Projects throughout the United States of America*, Jan. 22. Available at <http://www.awea.org/projects/>. Accessed March 2004.

AWEA, 2004b, *Online Membership Directory*. Available at <http://mcweb01.memberclicks.com/mc/prelogin.do?hidOrgID=awea>.

AWEA, 2004c, home page. Available at <http://www.awea.org>.

AWEA, 2004d, *Boom: 2003 Close to Best Year Ever for New Wind Installations; Bust: Expiration for Key Incentive Lowers Hopes for 2004*, new release, Jan. 22. Available at <http://www.awea.org/news040122r03>. Accessed July 9, 2004.

Burton, T., et al., 2001, *Wind Energy Handbook*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Chichester, United Kingdom.

Cotrell, J., 2002, "A Preliminary Evaluation of a Multiple-Generator Drivetrain Configuration for Wind Turbines," preprint, presented at the 21st American Society of Mechanical Engineers Wind Energy Symposium, Reno, Nev., Jan. 14–17. Available at <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy02osti/31178.pdf>.

DOE (U.S. Department of Energy), 2002, *Wind Power Today, 2002 Wind Energy Research Highlights*. Available at <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy03osti/33149.pdf>. Accessed March 2004.

DOE/TVA/EPRI (DOE, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Electric Power Research Institute), 2003, *Tennessee Valley Authority Buffalo Mountain Wind Power Project, First- and Second-Year Operating Experience: 2001–2003*, DOE-EPRI Wind Turbine Verification Program, Dec.

DWIA (Danish Wind Industry Association), 2004, *Wind Turbine Generators*. Available at <http://www.windpower.org/en/tour/wtrb/electric.htm>.

EERE (Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), 2003, *Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program; Wind Energy Program Multi Year Technical Plan for 2004–2010*, U.S. Department of Energy, Nov. Available at [http://www.nrel.gov/wind\\_meetings/2003\\_imp\\_meeting/pdfs/mytp\\_nov\\_2003.pdf](http://www.nrel.gov/wind_meetings/2003_imp_meeting/pdfs/mytp_nov_2003.pdf).

EERE, 2004a, *Wind & Hydropower Technologies Program*, U.S. Department of Energy. Available at [http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind\\_history.html?print](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind_history.html?print). Accessed March 2004.

EERE, 2004b, *Wind Energy Resource Potential*, U.S. Department of Energy. Available at [http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind\\_potential.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind_potential.html).

EERE, 2004c, *How Wind Turbines Work*, U.S. Department of Energy. Available at [http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind\\_how.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/wind_how.html). Accessed March 2004.

EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute), 2001, *Big Spring Wind Power Project, Second-Year Operating Experience: 2000–2001*, Final Report, DOE-EPRI Wind Turbine Verification Program, Dec.

GE (General Electric), 2004, *3.6 MW Wind Turbine Technical Specifications*. Available at [http://www.gepower.com/prod\\_serv/products/wind\\_turbines/en/36mw/36mw\\_specs.htm](http://www.gepower.com/prod_serv/products/wind_turbines/en/36mw/36mw_specs.htm). Accessed March 2004.

Gipe, P., 1995, *Wind Energy Comes of Age*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Global Energy Concepts, LLC, 2001, *WindPACT Turbine Design Scaling Studies Technical Area 3 — Self-Erecting Tower and Nacelle Feasibility March 2000–March 2001*, NREL/SR-500-29493, prepared by Global Energy Concepts, LLC, Kirkland, Wash., for National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colo., May.

Griffin, D., 2002, *Blade System Design Studies Volume I: Composite Technologies for Large Wind Turbine Blades*, SAND2002-1879, prepared by Global Energy Concepts, LLC, Kirkland, Wash., for Sandia National Laboratories, July.

Hau, E., 2000, *Windturbines: Fundamentals, Technologies, Application, Economics*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Germany.

IsoTruss Structures, Inc., 2004, *IsoTruss Structures, Inc.*, home page. Available at <http://www.isotruss.com>.

Kaygusuz, K., 2004, “Wind Energy: Progress and Potential,” *Energy Sources* 26:95–105.

Manwell, J.F., et al., 2002, *Wind Energy Explained: Theory, Design, and Application*, John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Chichester, United Kingdom.

McGowan, J.G., and S. Connors, 2000, “Windpower: A Turn of the Century Review,” *Annual Review of Energy and the Environment* 25:147–197.

Milborrow, D., 2002, “Wind Energy Technology — The State of the Art,” in *Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part A, Journal of Power and Energy* 216:23–30.

Momentum Technologies, LLC, 2004, *The Source for Renewable Energy*, source guide. Available at <http://energy.sourceguides.com.index.shtml>.

NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory), 2004a, home page. Available at <http://nrel.gov/>. Accessed March 2004.

NREL, 2004b, NREL Photo Archive, Photo #04688, #01671, and #12449. Available at <http://www.nrel.gov/data/pix/>.

NREL, 2004c, *National Wind Technology Center*. Available at <http://www.nrel.gov/wind/>.

NWCC (National Wind Coordinating Committee), 2004, home page. Available at <http://www.nationalwind.org/>.

Osborn, D., 2004, personal communication from Osborn (Distributed Generation Systems, Inc., Lakewood, Colo.) to R. Kolpa (Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.), March 15.

Robichaud, R., 2004, personal communication from Robichaud (National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colo.) to R. Kolpa (Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.), March 11.

Sandia National Laboratories, 2004a, home page. Available at <http://www.sandia.gov/>.

Sandia National Laboratories, 2004b, *What Is It?* Available at [http://www.sandia.gov/Renewable\\_Energy/wind\\_energy/abstracts/brochure.pdf](http://www.sandia.gov/Renewable_Energy/wind_energy/abstracts/brochure.pdf).

Sandia National Laboratories, 2004c, *Online Abstracts and Reports*. Available at [http://www.sandia.gov/Renewable\\_Energy/wind\\_energy/topical.htm](http://www.sandia.gov/Renewable_Energy/wind_energy/topical.htm).

Sandia National Laboratories, 2004d, *Wind Energy Technology*. Available at <http://www.sandia.gov/wind>.

Shikha [no first initial given], et al., 2003, "Aspects of Technological Development of Wind Turbines," *Journal of Energy Engineering* 129(3):81–95, Dec.

Steinhower, S., 2004, personal communication from Steinhower (SeaWest, Inc., Oakland, Calif.) to R. Kolpa (Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.), March 19.

TPI Composites, Inc., 2002, *Parametric Study for Large Wind Turbine Blades, WindPACT Blade System Design Studies*, SAND2002-2519, prepared by TPI Composites, Warren, R.I., for Sandia National Laboratories, Aug.

TPI Composites, Inc., 2003, *Blade Manufacturing Improvements: Remote Blade Manufacturing Demonstration*, SAND2003-0719, prepared by TPI Composites, Warren, R.I., for Sandia National Laboratories, May. Available at [http://www.sandia.gov/Renewable\\_Energy/wind\\_energy/other/030719.pdf](http://www.sandia.gov/Renewable_Energy/wind_energy/other/030719.pdf).

Valmont, 2004, *Valmont*, home page. Available at <http://www.valmont.com>.

Wilson, R.E., 1994, "Aerodynamic Behavior of Wind Turbines," pp. 215–282, in *Wind Turbine Technology, Fundamental Concepts of Wind Turbine Engineering*, D. Spera (editor), American Society of Mechanical Engineers Press, New York, N.Y.

**Attachment to Appendix D:**  
**Commercial Wind Energy Projects**  
**(as of January 2004)**

Data on commercial wind energy projects in the western states that are within the scope of this programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) are displayed in the tables below. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) compiles and maintains all of the data displayed below. All data presented are current as of January 14, 2004. All data are accessible electronically from the AWEA Web site at <http://www.awea.org/projects/index.html>. Data presented in the tables below are updated quarterly by the AWEA.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cannot guarantee the completeness or accuracy of these listings. Submission by wind farm developers or operators of project information to AWEA for inclusion in these listings is voluntary.

## California

### Major CA Wind Energy Resource Areas

| Existing Project or Area   | MW Installed* | Annual Energy Output (Yr of Est) | Power Purchaser/ User  | Turbines             |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>1. Altamont Pass</u>    | 548.32        | 637 M kWh (1998)                 | Pacific Gas & Electric | Variety              |
| <u>2. Pacheco Pass</u>     | 16.0          | 22.3 M kWh (1998)                | Pacific Gas & Electric | Variety              |
| <u>3. San Geronio Pass</u> | 614.94        | 805 M kWh (1998)                 | So. California Edison  | Variety              |
| <u>4. Solano County</u>    | 176.16        | N.A.                             | S.M.U.D                | Kenetech & Vestas    |
|                            | 60.0          | 97.1 M kWh (1998)                | Pacific Gas & Electric | U.S. Wind- power 100 |
| <u>5. Tehachapi</u>        | 605.72        | 1.2 B kWh (1998)                 | So. California Edison  | Variety              |
| <u>Others</u>              | 0.675         | N.A.                             | U.S. Navy              | NEG-Micon            |

### Wind Energy Projects in California

| Project Name                             | Owner   | Year       | MW    | Power Purchaser | Turbines / Units         |
|--|---------|------------|-------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Altamont Pass</b>                     |         |            |       |                 |                          |
| 1985 Zond Windsystem Partners Series 85C | GE Wind | 1985       | 18.0  | PG&E            | Vestas V-17 (200)        |
| Venture Wind (old Los Vaqueros)          | SeaWest | mid-1980's | 2.89  | PG&E            | Polenko/ Wind-matic (38) |
| Altech Energy, Ltd                       | SeaWest | 1981-1995  | 5.76  | PG&E            | Enertech (144)           |
| C.W.E.S.                                 | SeaWest | 1981-1995  | 1.32  | PG&E            | Enertech (24)            |
| SeaWest Energy Group (a)                 | SeaWest | 1981-1995  | 0.065 | PG&E            | Micon (1)                |

|   |                          |             |       |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|---|
|   |                          | 1995        |       |                          | (170)   |
| Zond-PanAero Windsystems                        | GE Wind                  | 1981-1995   | 29.9  | So Cal Ed                | Vestas V-15 (460)   |
| Whitewater Hill (San Gorgonio Farms)            | San Gorgonio Farms       | 1984 - 1994 | 31.0  | So Cal Ed                | DWT 400 (35), Bonus 120 (56), Vestas 500 (5), Bonus 65 (85) |
| Dutch Pacific                                   | Dutch Pacific, LLC       | 1994        | 10.0  | So Cal Ed                | NedWind (20)  |
| Karen Avenue (San Gorgonio Farms)               | San Gorgonio Farms       | 1995        | 3.0   | So Cal Ed                | Vestas (6)  |
| East Winds (formerly Altech III)                | Nichimen America         | 1997        | 4.2   | So Cal Ed                | NEG-Micon (7)   |
| Invest I-IX<br><a href="#">Project Web Site</a> | K/S Whitewater           | 1999        | 10.0  | So Cal Ed                | Nordex (10)   |
| Pacific West I                                  | PacificCorp              | 1999        | 2.1   | SCE - Green Mt. Energy   | NEG Micon - (3)   |
| Cabazon (Re-power)                              | GE Wind                  | 1999        | 39.75 | So Cal Ed                | Zond Z-750 (53)   |
| Westwind (Re-power)                             | Cinergy & Caithness      | May 1999    | 46.5  | So Cal Ed                | <a href="#">NEG Micon Project Info</a>                      |
| GE Wind / Earth Smart/ Green Power              | GE Wind                  | June 1999   | 16.5  | Electricity Marketers    | Zond Z-50 (22)  |
| Westwind-Pacificorp (Re-Power)                  | Pacificorp/ GMER         | May 1999    | 1.5   | SCE - Green Mt. Energy   | NEG-Micon (2)   |
| Mountain View Power Partners II                 | PGE-NEG                  | Oct 2001    | 22.20 | PG&E                     | Mitsubishi MWT600 (37)                                      |
| Mountain View Power Partners I                  | PGE-NEG                  | Oct 2001    | 44.40 | PG&E                     | Mitsubishi MWT600 (74)                                      |
| Whitewater Hill                                 | Shell Wind Energy        | Dec 2002    | 61.50 | Dept. of Water Resources | GE Wind Energy 1500 (41)                                    |
| Cabazon   | Shell Wind Energy        | Dec 2002    | 40.92 | Dept of Water Resources  | Vestas V-47 (62)  |
| Karen Avenue II                                 | San Gorgonio Farms       | June 2003   | 4.5   | So Cal Ed                | GE Wind Energy 1500 (3)                                     |
| Mountain View III                               | San Diego Gas & Electric | 4th Q 2003  | 22.44 | San Diego Gas & Electric | Vestas 650 (34)   |

## Solano County

|  |      |      |      |                          |                       |
|--|------|------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Solano County/ Kenetech                      | NA   | 1985 | 60.0 | PG&E                     | U.S. Wind-power (600) |
| Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) | SMUD | 1994 | 3.6  | Sac Mun Utility District | Kenetech (12)         |
| SMUD   | SMUD | 1999 | 0.66 | Sac Mun Utility District | Vestas (1)            |
| SMUD   | SMUD | 2003 | 9.9  | Sac Mun Utility District | Vestas 660kW (15)     |
| High Winds                                   | SMUD | 2003 | 162  | Sac Mun Utility District | Vestas 1.8 MW (90)    |

## Tehachapi

|                           |                          |            |       |            |                           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| Zond Systems              | GE Wind                  | 1986       | 0.2   | So Cal Ed. | Vestas (1)                |
| Victory Gardens, Phase IV | GE Wind                  | 1990       | 22.05 | So Cal Ed. | Vestas V-27 (98)          |
| Sky River                 | GE Wind                  | 1993       | 76.95 | So Cal Ed. | Vestas V-27 (342)         |
| Oak Creek Energy Systems  | Oak Creek Energy Systems | 2002       | 0.8   | So Cal Ed. | NEG Micon (1)             |
| Oak Creek Energy Systems  | Oak Creek Energy Systems | 1981-1995  | 3.45  | So Cal Ed. | Micon (36)                |
| AB Energy                 | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 7.0   | So Cal Ed. | Vestas V27 (31)           |
| Calwind Resources         | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 14.1  | So Cal Ed. | Bonus (217)               |
| Calwind Resources         | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 8.7   | So Cal Ed. | Nordtank (134)            |
| Coram Energy Group        | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 1.9   | So Cal Ed. | Aeroman (47)              |
| Coram Energy Group        | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 4.0   | So Cal Ed. | Aeroman (100)             |
| Coram Energy Group        | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 6.8   | So Cal Ed. | Aeroman / Tacke (110 / 4) |
| Mogul Energy              | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 4.0   | So Cal Ed. | Mitsubishi (8)            |
| Mohave 3, 4, 5            | Tomen/FPL                | 1981-1995  | 75.0  | So Cal Ed. | Mitsubishi (300)          |
| Mohave 16, 17, 18         | Tomen/FPL                | 1981-1995  | 85.0  | So Cal Ed. | Mitsubishi (340)          |
| Windridge                 | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 2.34  | So Cal Ed. | Windmatic (36)            |
| Victory Gardens I & IV    | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 1.0   | So Cal Ed. | Vestas (2)                |
| Cannon                    | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 13.46 | So Cal Ed. | Micon, Vestas (8, 28)     |
| Cannon (Various)          | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 4.54  | So Cal Ed. | Micon, Vestas (42)        |
| Ridgetop Energy           | NA                       | 1981-1995  | 32.6  | So Cal Ed. | Nordtank, Micon (329)     |
| Zond Systems              | GE Wind                  | 1982-1987  | 23.99 | So Cal Ed. | Vestas (369)              |
| Zond Systems              | GE Wind                  | 1982-1987  | 64.0  | So Cal Ed. | Vestas (711)              |
| Windland (Boxcar II)      | Windland, Inc.           | Mid-1980's | 14.3  | So Cal Ed. | Various (141)             |
| Oak Creek Energy Systems  | Oak Creek Energy         | 2002       | 1.35  | So, Cal Ed | NEG Micon (1)             |



|   |                                      |              |       |            |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------|------------|--|
| Oak Creek Phase 1<br>(ON Energy)          | Nichimen<br>& Oak<br>Creek<br>Energy | Sept<br>1997 | 4.2   | So Cal Ed. | NEG Micon<br>(7)                               |
| Oak Creek Phase 2A<br>(Re-power)          | Oak Creek<br>Energy                  | June<br>1999 | 1.6   | So Cal Ed  | NEG Micon<br>(2)                               |
| Pacific Crest                             | FPL<br>Energy                        | Jun 1999     | 45.54 | So Cal Ed  | Vestas<br>(69)                                 |
| Oak Creek Wind Power Phase<br>2 (Repower) | Caithness                            | June<br>1999 | 23.1  | So Cal Ed  | <u>NEG Micon-<br/>700 Project Info</u><br>(33) |
| Cameron Ridge<br>(Re-power)               | FPL &<br>Caithness                   | Mar<br>1999  | 56.0  | So Cal Ed  | <u>NEG Micon<br/>(80)<br/>Project Info</u>     |
| Victory Gardens (Repower)                 | Enron<br>Wind<br>Corp.               | Jun 1999     | 6.75  | So Cal Ed  | Zond Z-50<br>(9)                               |

### Others

|   |                            |      |       |                     |                  |
|---|----------------------------|------|-------|---------------------|------------------|
| U.S. Navy/ NEG Micon<br>San Clemente Island | U.S. Navy                  | 1998 | 0.675 | U.S. Navy           | NEG Micon<br>(3) |
| Los Angeles Co.                             | Wind<br>Turbine<br>Company | 2001 | 0.50  | Southern Cal<br>Ed. | WTC (1)          |

## Planned Projects in California

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project)             | Location         | Status               | MW<br>Cap | Online date/<br>Turbine |
|--|------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| PG&E/SeaWest<br>(Venture Pacific)          | Altamont Pass    | Pending              | 25.6      | 2004<br>Mitsubishi      |
| FPL/Green Ridge Power                      | Altamont Pass    | Proposed<br>Re-power | 110.0     | 2004<br>NEG Micon - 700 |
| Indigenous Global<br>Development Corp.     | Contra Costa     | Proposed             | 22.50     | NA / TBD                |
| Pacific Ind Elec<br>(San Clemente Is.)     | San Clemente Is. | Under Dev            | 0.75      | 2004<br>NEG Micon       |
| Mark Technologies<br>(Alta Mesa IV)        | San Geronio      | Under Dev.           | 40.3      | 2004<br>Vestas - 660 kW |
| SMUD<br>(Solano Wind Project -<br>Phase I) | Solano           | Under<br>Development | 9.24      | 2004<br>Vestas V-47     |
| GE Wind<br>(Victory Garden)                | Tehachapi        | Proposed             | 30.0      | 2004<br>GE Wind         |
| Oak Creek Energy Sys<br>(Jawbone)          | Tehachapi        | Proposed             | 52.5      | 2004                    |

+ Uncertain completion dates

## Colorado

### Wind Energy Development

| Project or Area                                  | Owner                                       | Date Online   | MW    | Power Purchaser/User | Turbines / Units   |
|--|---|---------------|-------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ponnequin (EIU) (Phase I)                     | K/S Ponnequin WindSource & Energy Resources | Jan 1999      | 5.1   | PSCo                 | NEG Micon (7)      |
| 1. Ponnequin (PSCo) <a href="#">Project Info</a> | PSCo  | Feb-June 1999 | 16.5  | PSCo                 | NEG Micon (22)     |
| 1. Ponnequin (Phase III)                         | New Century (Xcel)                          | 2001          | 9.9   | New Century (Xcel)   | Vestas (15)        |
| Peetz Table Wind Farm                            | New Century (Xcel)                          | Sept 2001     | 29.7  | New Century (Xcel)   | NEG Micon (33)     |
| Colorado Green, Lamar (Prowers County)           | Xcel Energy / GE Wind Wind Corp.            | Dec 2003      | 162.0 | Xcel                 | GE Wind 1500 (108) |

### New Wind Projects in Colorado

| Utility/Developer (Project) | Location | Status | MW Capacity | On Line By / Turbines |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------|-------------|-----------------------|
| None                        |          |        |             |                       |

## Idaho

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project or Area | Owner           | Date Online | MW    | Power Purchaser/ User | Turbines/ Units |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Boise                    | Bob Lewandowski | 2003        | 0.216 | NA                    | 108 (2)         |

### Planned Wind Projects in Idaho

| Utility/Developer (Project) | Location | Status | MW Capacity | On Line By / Turbines |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------|-------------|-----------------------|
| None                        |          |        |             |                       |

## Montana

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project or Area | Owner            | Date Online | MW  | Power Purchaser/ User        | Turbine         |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-----|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Blackfeet Reservation    | Blackfeet Nation | 1996        | 0.1 | Glacier Electric Cooperative | Vestas V-17 (1) |

## New Wind Projects in Montana

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project)  | Location                    | Status     | MW<br>Capacity | On Line / Turbine          |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes /<br>Montana-Dakota Utilities<br>(Fort Peck Reservation Wind<br>Project) | Fort Peck Res/<br>Poplar MT | Under Dev. | 0.66           | 2004/ Vestas V-47<br>660kW |

## Nevada

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project<br>or Area | MW<br>Installed* | Annual Energy<br>Output (Yr of Est) | Power Purchaser/<br>User |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

None

## New Wind Projects in Nevada

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project)   | Location                      | Status   | MW<br>Capacity | On Line By/ Turbine |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------------|
| Global Renewable Energy<br>Partners & BP Capital (Power<br>Star)<br>(Table Mountain) | Near Primm in<br>Sandy Valley | Proposed | 105.0          | 2004 /<br>NEG Micon |
| Cielo Wind Power<br>(Desert Queen Wind Ranch)  | Clark County                  | Proposed | 60.0           | 2005                |
| Global Renewable Energy<br>Partners (Ely Wind LLC)                                   | White Pine<br>County          | Proposed | 50.0           | 2005 / NEG Micon    |

## New Mexico

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project<br>or Area                                    | Owner                           | Date<br>Online | MW          | Power<br>Purchaser/<br>User     | Wind Turbines      |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Curry County<br>(Llano Estacado<br>Wind Ranch at<br>Texaco) |                                 | June<br>1999   | 0.66        | Excel                           | Vestas V-48<br>(1) |
| SW Public<br>Service<br>(Clovis)                               | Texas<br>Wind<br>Power          | June<br>1999   | 0.66        | Southwestern<br>Public Service  | Vestas V-47        |
| <b>New Mexico<br/>Wind Energy<br/>Center</b>                   | <b>FPL<br/>Energy</b>           | 2003           | <b>204</b>  | Public Service<br>of New Mexico | GE Wind 1500 (136) |
| Llano Estacado<br>Wind Ranch                                   | <b>Cielo<br/>Wind<br/>Power</b> | 4th Q<br>2004  | <b>1.32</b> | PS of New<br>Mexico             | Vestas 660 kW (2)  |

## New Wind Projects in New Mexico

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project) | Location | Status | MW<br>Capacity | On Line By |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|------------|
| None                           |          |        |                |            |

## Oregon

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project<br>or Area                         | Owner                      | Date<br>Online | MW    | Power<br>Purchaser/<br>User           | Turbines/<br>Units        |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Vansycle Ridge<br>(Helix, OR)                    | FPL Energy                 | Oct<br>1998    | 25.1  | Portland<br>General Electric          | Vestas V-47<br>(38)       |
| Condon Wind<br>Project Phase I<br>(Gilliam County)  | TBA                        | Dec<br>2001    | 24.6  | BPA                                   | Mitsubishi MWT600<br>(41) |
| Klondike<br>(Wasco)                                 | Northwest Wind<br>Power    | Dec<br>2001    | 24.0  | Northwest Wind<br>Power               | Enron 1.5MW (16)          |
| Stateline Wind<br>Project, (Umatilla)               | FPL Energy;<br>Vansycle    | Dec<br>2001    | 83.16 | PacificCorp                           | Vestas V-47<br>(127)      |
| Condon Wind<br>Project Phase II<br>(Gilliam County) | TBA                        | Dec<br>2002    | 25.2  | Bonneville<br>Power<br>Administration | Mitsubishi MWT600<br>(42) |
| Stateline (Orphans)                                 | FPL Energy<br>Vansycle LLC | 2002           | 37    | NA                                    | Vestas V47 (55)           |
| Combine Hills                                       | PacificCorp/<br>Eurus      | Dec<br>2003    | 41.0  | PacificCorp                           | Mitsubishi 1000 (41)      |

### New Wind Projects

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project) | Location | Status | MW Capacity | On Line By /<br>Turbines |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|-------------|--------------------------|
| None                           |          |        |             |                          |

## Utah

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing<br>Project<br>or Area | Owner         | Date<br>Online | MW    | Power<br>Purchaser/<br>User | Wind Turbine/<br>Units |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Camp<br>Williams,<br>Riverton  | U.S.<br>Gov't | May<br>2000    | 0.225 |                             | NEG Micon /<br>(1)     |

### New Wind Projects in Utah

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project) | Location | Status | MW<br>Capacity | On Line By /<br>Turbine |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|
| None                           |          |        |                |                         |

## Washington State

### Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project or Area                      | Owner                | Date Online | MW    | Power Purchaser/ User                    | Turbines/ (Units) |
|---|----------------------|-------------|-------|--|-------------------|
| Stateline Wind Project, Phase I (Walla Walla) | FPL Energy, Vansycle | Dec 2001    | 180.2 | PacifiCorp                               | Vestas V-47 (273) |
| Nine Canyon Wind Farm                         | Energy Northwest     | Sep 2002    | 48.0  | Public Power Members of Energy Northwest | Bonus 1300 (37)   |
| Walla Walla County                            | Stateline Wind       | 2002        | 39.6  | NA                                       | NA                |
| Nine Canyon Phase II                          | Energy Northwest     | 4th Q 2003  | 15.6  | Energy Northwest                         | Bonus 1300 (12)   |

## New Wind Projects in Washington State

| Utility/Developer (Project)                    | Location                          | Status      | MW Capacity | On Line By |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| BPA / Pacific Winds (Maiden Wind Farm)         | Benton & Yakima Co. near Presser  | Proposed    | 150.0       | 2004       |
| BPA / Pacific Winds (Horse Heaven Hills)       | Benton Co.                        | Proposed    | 150.0       | 2004       |
| Zilkha Renewable Energy (TBD)                  | Near Ellensburg / Kittitas County | Proposed    | 100.0       | 2004       |
| BPA / SeaWest Wind Power (Roosevelt)           | Klickitat County                  | Speculative | 150.0       | 2004       |
| BPA / SeaWest Wind Power (Six Prong)           | Klickitat County                  | Speculative | 150.0       | 2004       |
| BPA / SeaWest Wind Power (Waitsburg)           | Walla Walla / Columbia            | Speculative | 100.0       | 2004       |
| BPA / Columbia Windpower (Columbia Wind Ranch) | Klickitat Co.                     | Speculative | 80.0        | 2004       |

## Wyoming Wind Energy Development

| Existing Project or Area                   | Owner                            | Date Online | MW    | Power Purchaser/ User | Turbines/ Units |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Medicine Bow                               | PRPA+                            | 1996        | 0.065 | PRPA                  | Nordtank (1)    |
| 1. <u>Medicine Bow, WY</u>                 | PRPA                             | 1998        | 1.2   | PRPA                  | Vestas (2)      |
| 1. <u>Footo Creek Rim - I (Carbon Co.)</u> | Pacificorp, Eugene Water & Elec. | April 1999  | 41.4  | Pacificorp, EWEB      | Mitsubishi (69) |
| 1. Footo Creek Rim - II (Carbon Co.)       | Cinergy Global (Part Interest)   | June 1999   | 1.8   | BPA                   | Mitsubishi (3)  |
| 1. Footo Creek Rim - III                   | Cinergy Global                   | June        | 24.75 | Public Service        | NEG Micon       |

|   |                               |               |       |                   |                             |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| (Carbon Co.)                            | Power                         | 1999          |       | Co of<br>Colorado | (33)<br><u>Project Info</u> |
| 1. Foot Creek Rim - IV<br>(Carbon Co.)  | Cinergy Global<br>Power       | Oct<br>2000   | 16.8  | BPA               | Mitsubishi 600 (28)         |
| 1. Medicine Bow                         | PRPA                          | Oct<br>1999   | 3.3   | PRPA              | Vestas V-47<br>(5)          |
| 1. Medicine Bow                         | PRPA                          | July<br>2000  | 1.32  | PRPA              | Vestas V-47<br>(2)          |
| Arlington, Carbon Co.<br>(Rock River I) | Shell<br>Renewables           | Oct<br>2001   | 50.0  | PacifiCorp        | Mitsubishi<br>MWT (50)      |
| Evanston                                | FPL<br>Energy/Orion<br>Energy | 4th Q<br>2003 | 144.0 | PPM Energy        | Vestas 1800 (80)            |

+ Platte River Power Authority

### New Wind Projects in Wyoming

| Utility/Developer<br>(Project) | Location | Status | MW<br>Capacity | On Line By /<br>Turbines |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|--------------------------|
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|--------------------------|

None

#### Notes:

No commercial wind energy projects are operational or planned for Arizona.

Only those wind energy projects that interconnect to the electric transmission system are listed.

Unless otherwise specified, all data are current as of January 14, 2004.

